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### EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYED.

The year 1875—now almost at its close—is one that will be long remembered by both Employers and Employed, as a year of great depression in all sources of mechanical industries, not only in the Dominion of Canada, but in every country where manufactories form the principal source of its peoples' wealth, and give employment to a large proportion of the human race in all parts of the civilized world. For many months past, has this depression existed, and we fear there is little prospect of the early part of the coming year bringing with it any change in the financial state of the country; probably not until the Spring is far advanced and confidence become partially restored. Will money again roll on in safer channels of trade and commerce, therefore, until a marked reaction takes place, a great amount of misery will have to be endured by many mechanics, not only in this city, but throughout the whole Dominion; although those residing in country places will not feel it to so great an extent as residents in cities, as they have less burthen to bear in the way of rent and taxes, and have more resources within themselves of supporting their families.

It is hardly within the province of this Magazine to attempt to give reasons for the financial difficulties which have brought about such hard times, but in the chain of circumstances which, link by link, have been increasing, and adding to our embarrassments, we cannot but feel that so far as the building interests are concerned a great many links have been added thereto by the Employed themselves, by injudicious and unreasonable endeavours, through strikes, to force from the manufacturers and builders a rate of wages far beyond their power to pay;—upon this cause, therefore, we certainly consider it within our province to dilate.

Some months since, being in New York, and having business with parties connected with the building interests of that city, the complaints we heard were loud and long against the injury done by these continued strikes; but, said one of our informants, it is worse this time than heretofore, for the strike is with the masons, so that if the foundations of a building are not laid and the walls erected, every other branch of the building business must come to a stand. If masons, through a combination, refuse to work, the bricklayer, the plasterer, the carpenter, the carver, the plumber, the painter, the roofer, and in fact, many other trades are brought to a stand still, the circulation of large sums of money arrested, and thousands thrown out of employment, and as is generally the case, through the instrumentality of a few worthless troublesome characters, who have nothing to lose should their advice be followed by their dupes. But the evil done to business and to the families of those who have been forced into these unions, by this stop to the circulation of capital, does not rest merely with those thrown out of employment; the grocers, butchers, bakers and others who supply the mechanic with the necessaries and comforts of life, become also heavy losers, for the mechanic is no longer able to pay them ready money for their goods, and if they trust them, the probability is that in a majority of cases they will be losers, and so it is, my informant went on to say, that, through the bad advice of a few worthless and discontented men, the whole machine has stopped running, because contractors would not undertake to build unless guaranteed a per centage on the mens' wages—and capitalists preferred investing in other projects rather than commence to build a block of houses, which, at the rate of wages when the building would be commenced, might cost \$100,000 would, owing to strikes amongst the tradesmen after it had been begun, cost \$150,000.